



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB™



Performance Events Department

August 2025

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Host Scent Work Events and Approved Judges**

Subject: **Dogs with Coat Coloring Allowed**

This communication is to inform your club of a change made to the *Regulations for AKC Scent Work*. This change allows dogs with coat coloring to participate in Scent Work trials. The purpose of allowing dogs to have coat coloring is to add an element of fun to events by allowing clubs to adopt themes or to encourage dogs to “run for the cause” in support of a local activity.

This change goes into effect starting September 1, 2025. The exact wording of these changes are noted below and will be added to the *Regulations for AKC Scent Work* booklet upon the next reprinting.

## **Chapter 2 - Owners/Handlers and Their Responsibilities**

*(new)*

**Section 4. Dogs with Coloring.** Dogs with artificial coloring in their coats may participate in Scent Work. The coloring must not cover more than one-third of the dog's coat. Colored markings on a dog must not be in poor taste and cannot contain profanity or conflict with a sponsor of a test. It is the responsibility of the Chairperson to decide if the coloring is acceptable.

Regulation updates can be found on the [Regulation Resources](https://www.akc.org/regulation-resources/) webpage. Please send any questions or comments to: [scentwork@akc.org](mailto:scentwork@akc.org).